

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE HOMELESS

Health & Human Services Commission
Room PHR 164
909 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas

April 3, 2018
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
D.J. BINGLER
VALINDA BOLTON
NAOMI CANTU
SHERRI COGBILL
CLAIRE IRWIN
JESSICA HISSAM
CAL LOPEZ
TODD NOVAK (via telephone)
JOYCE POHLMAN
ELIZABETH YEVICH (proxy for Brooke Boston)

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHRISTINE GENDRON
DAVID LONG
MOLLY VOYLES (via telephone)
ERIC SAMUELS
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)
JEANNE STAMP
MICHAEL WILT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ (TDHCA)
MEGAN SYLVESTER (TDHCA)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: Welcome to y'all that are on the
3 phone. I will officially call to order the April meeting
4 of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless. We do
5 have a quorum present, so I want to make note of that and
6 thank all of you for being here.

7 For those that are on the phone, I am just
8 going to ask that we take a second to let you know who is
9 here. We have Christine Gendron from TNOYS. Jessica
10 Hissam -- I am trying to read without my glasses.
11 Joyce --

12 MS. POHLMAN: Pohlman.

13 MR. DOYLE: Pohlman. Claire Irwin, who is a
14 new member, representing HHSC, replacing Cody Rothschild.
15 Ken Martin, with THEO. Janine Stamp.

16 MS. STAMP: Jeanne.

17 MR. DOYLE: Jeanne Stamp with the Texas --

18 MS. STAMP: Texas Homeless Education Office.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Cal Lopez, is that TEA?

20 MS. LOPEZ: Yes.

21 MR. DOYLE: Gabrielle McDonald with Texas
22 Appleseed. They were with us last time. Thank you. And
23 Sherri Cogbill with TDCJ. And our new VISTA, Keenan --

24 MR. SHEPHARD: Keegan.

25 MR. DOYLE: Keegan --

1 MR. SHEPHARD: Shepherd.

2 MR. DOYLE: Shepherd. And DJ Bingham from
3 TWC. Thank you so much for TWC's contribution again. We
4 will talk about that in a minute, but we sure appreciate
5 it. And I saw Commissioner Alcantar in DC, last week,
6 and thanked him proficiently. And Naomi is here, with
7 TDCJ.

8 MS. CANTU: TDHCA.

9 MR. DOYLE: Yes. TDHCA.

10 MS. CANTU: So many acronyms.

11 MR. DOYLE: I know. Valinda --

12 MS. BOLTON: Valinda Bolton with DFPS.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And Elizabeth Yevich.

14 MS. YEVICH: Yes. Sitting in for Brooke
15 Boston today, with TDHCA.

16 MR. DOYLE: Megan Sylvester with TDHCA. Cate
17 Tracz with TDHCA. And I am Mike Doyle, representing the
18 Governor's Office. Eric Samuels with THN. Meagan Moore
19 with THN. David Long with Texas State Affordable Housing
20 Corporation. And Michael Wilt. Is that Wilt?

21 MR. WILT: Yes.

22 MR. DOYLE: With the Housing Corporation. So
23 thank you all for being here. We will get right into our
24 agenda. I don't have any further remarks, other than
25 thank you for being here. And I hope you had a great

1 Easter holiday.

2 As I told you in the membership updates, Cody
3 Rothschild is stepping down from membership at HHSC. And
4 Claire Irwin is taking his place. We thank you, Claire,
5 for doing that.

6 And now, if you have had a chance to look at
7 the minutes. We would entertain a motion to approve
8 those minutes.

9 MS. COGBILL: Make a motion.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Motion by Sherri. Is there
11 a second?

12 MS. YEVICH: I second.

13 MR. DOYLE: Second. Any discussion?
14 Corrections? Comments?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DOYLE: All in favor, say aye.

17 (A chorus of ayes.)

18 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

19 (No response.)

20 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass. Okay. We now have
21 a report on the -- from Naomi on the Ending Homelessness
22 Fund.

23 MS. CANTU: So my name is Naomi Cantu. I am
24 with Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.
25 I am here to give an update on the Ending Homelessness

1 Fund. So just a little background, this fund was
2 created out of House Bill 44102 from the last legislative
3 session. And when you register a vehicle, when you --
4 you can donate to the DMV for the Ending Homelessness
5 Fund.

6 So when you are registering the vehicle, you
7 have an option to donate to this fund, along with several
8 other funds that are listed, including organ donors,
9 veterans, Parks and Wildlife and Special Olympics. The
10 bill outlines that the Fund will be outside the Treasury
11 held by the Comptroller, and that TDHCA is a trustee of
12 these funds.

13 It will provide grants to counties and
14 municipalities to combat homelessness. And TDHCA is
15 going to be adopting rules as to what use for these funds
16 for, for the combating of homelessness.

17 Let's see. As of March of this year, this
18 fund has raised about \$23,000 - \$24,000. So that is a
19 decent amount, compared to the other funds, as well. So
20 the other funds in range is about \$100,000 to about
21 \$700,000 per year.

22 It really depends on a number of factors. So
23 we are trying to figure out this first year, how much
24 funding is going to be available through this kind of
25 donation process. If we continue at the same rate,

1 monthly rate, until August, we expect about \$63,000 by
2 September. So that is what we are estimating -- or not
3 what we are estimating, but a projection, I should say, a
4 projection. Again, we have very limited data on how much
5 we are collecting.

6 We do plan to do roundtables this summer,
7 possibly in August or -- July or August, for the use of
8 these funds. We did hold a roundtable, a preliminary
9 roundtable right after the TICH meeting, the last TICH
10 meeting, which was well attended.

11 The overarching thoughts about this, is
12 because of the amount of money collected, and because of
13 existing programs for homelessness, that we would -- if
14 it is under \$100,000, combine it with their existing
15 programs, either as when subrecipients for either
16 Emergency Solutions Grants, or Homeless Housing and
17 Services Grants could -- I am sorry, I don't want to say
18 run out.

19 But when they spend their grant before the
20 year is up, so they are out of funding, right, that this
21 could be used to supplement those programs, until new
22 funding is available. Depending on the amount, if it is
23 under \$100,000.

24 If it is over \$100,000, we entertain different
25 things to use the money for. But with the amounts and

1 the administrative work, to create a new program, we are
2 looking to roll that into the existing programs.

3 MR. DOYLE: But only after the existing ESG
4 funds have been expended.

5 MS. CANTU: That is, right now, the proposal.
6 Again, this is all preliminary.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

8 MS. CANTU: So either ESG or HHSG. That is
9 the proposal. So we will see how that works. And we are
10 doing an analysis to see how much this could affect where
11 this would go, what this would be used for.

12 MR. DOYLE: Address again -- did you have --
13 is there a public comment period on there?

14 MS. CANTU: So we are going to do roundtables
15 in the summer.

16 MR. DOYLE: In the summer.

17 MS. CANTU: And then we plan, and this is
18 again preliminary, we plan to take the rules, draft rules
19 in September to our board. So that is -- once the draft
20 rules are open, that is when the official comment period
21 will be.

22 And that is, of course, subject to change.
23 But that is the current plan. But the roundtable is a
24 really good source of input, because it is more of a
25 dialogue. And there will be also an option online as

1 well.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MS. CANTU: Is there any questions about the
4 Ending Homelessness Fund and status right now?

5 MR. SAMUELS: So the amount -- is that
6 something that is public? Is that something that you can
7 share?

8 MS. CANTU: I imagine we could make it public.

9 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, by way of, you know,
10 hey. There has been \$24,000 raised already. We
11 encourage you to keep it up.

12 MS. TRACZ: It will be in the minutes from
13 this meeting, so that is public.

14 MR. SAMUELS: So it will be public. Okay.

15 MR. DOYLE: And then is there any
16 stipulation -- or Christine, you had a question?

17 MS. GENDRON: Thank you. So HHSP is GR, and
18 might be on the chopping block. So is it then ESG -- is
19 there any GR in that? Or is that all federal money?

20 MS. CANTU: It is all federal money.

21 MS. GENDRON: Okay. So HHSP might be a better
22 fit, than ESG.

23 MS. CANTU: It depends. I mean, ESG goes up
24 and down, yearly, as well.

25 MS. GENDRON: Okay.

1 MS. CANTU: And then also, to expand the
2 number of subrecipients that would be eligible. Plus,
3 ESG, we have had more history of the ESG subrecipients
4 running out for the year, before HHSP has run out.

5 MS. GENDRON: Okay.

6 MR. DOYLE: Are there any restrictions on the
7 people that are listed, from what you can check. Do you
8 want to give your -- that fee to. Are there any
9 restrictions on marketing or anything?

10 MS. BOLTON: That was my question.

11 MS. CANTU: I don't know. I can look into
12 that, but I don't know.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

14 MR. SAMUELS: I hope there is not many. We
15 have been encouraging people already.

16 MR. DOYLE: Yes. But I am talking about maybe
17 a flyer in the -- on the website where you do your
18 registration. Some little kind of blurb there, the
19 internet marketing.

20 You can choose a dollar to go wherever you
21 choose, or whatever. However they do that. And have the
22 popup that would be homelessness, and task them to give.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. That would be great. I
24 don't know if --

25 MS. CANTU: Off of the DMV website?

1 MR. DOYLE: Wherever they go, can go to look.
2 Or anything registration wise.

3 MS. CANTU: That, I think, would have to be
4 through the DMV.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MS. CANTU: And also, because there is other
7 funds available --

8 MR. DOYLE: Right. There are others.

9 MS. CANTU: I am not sure how that would work
10 if they promote one fund over another.

11 MS. BOLTON: Can advocacy groups promote this,
12 like through their social media and whatnot? Like, to
13 their members or supporters, as a way to like --

14 I am going to be probably buying a car by the
15 end of the week. It is an unplanned purchase. But
16 nevertheless. You know, so I will happily -- there is a
17 lot of good causes, but if the advocacy groups
18 represented by this Committee --

19 MR. SAMUELS: Again, I hope so. Because we
20 have.

21 MS. BOLTON: Cool.

22 MR. SAMUELS: So we put it out on social media
23 more than a few times.

24 MS. BOLTON: I mean, it shouldn't be secret.

25 MR. SAMUELS: This would be a good opportunity

1 to do it again.

2 MR. DOYLE: And our continuums, we will
3 certainly be putting it out to their membership.

4 MS. BOLTON: But I was thinking, too. Like,
5 groups like, local, like, you know, like ECHO, or Mobile
6 Loaves. You know, like local groups that do housing and
7 homelessness prevention.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Right. You are right. They
9 should be encouraging people to do that as well. And I
10 don't know that they all are. So that is a good point.

11 MS. BOLTON: They may not know.

12 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Okay.

13 MS. CANTU: Yes. So definitely, with outreach
14 is different than marketing. Right. So but I haven't
15 been asked point blank if there is a restriction on
16 marketing, which is why I don't have the research to
17 answer for that.

18 And in regards to any linkage to these funds,
19 we do have a website up. So if you want to reference,
20 you know, some history and all that, it is on the TDHCA
21 web site, the Ending Homelessness Fund.

22 MS. TRACZ: I can send that to the group,
23 after this meeting.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great. Other questions or
25 comments about the Ending Homelessness Fund?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. DOYLE: And you are expecting money to be
3 available when? In one way, form or the other?

4 MS. CANTU: We are waiting to see, by the end
5 of the year, so that we have an idea of how to program
6 it.

7 MR. DOYLE: So possibly in 2019, there might
8 be a few additional dollars.

9 MS. CANTU: Fiscal year, yes. So we are just
10 trying to figure out rule-wise, how we want to craft
11 that.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good. All right. VISTA
13 project update. Keegan, you are going to do that? Is
14 that --

15 MR. SHEPHARD: No. Actually, that is Meagan.

16 MR. DOYLE: Meagan? Okay.

17 MR. SHEPHARD: Yes.

18 MS. MOORE: Hi, everyone. Thank you so much.
19 So we are just going to start off. We have finally
20 recruited both members for Tarrant County and Travis
21 County, if you all recall.

22 These are members who are going to be
23 connecting continuums of care to Texas Workforce
24 Commissions and developing better services for people
25 experiencing homelessness, looking for a job. So in

1 addition to making, finding these candidates, we have
2 also begun making connections with Houston area Texas
3 Workforce Commission and continuum of care to possibly
4 get a member in one of the ten counties surrounding
5 Houston that is covered by the Houston Texas Workforce
6 Commission, but not covered by their continuum of care.

7 So we haven't really formally started making
8 anything. But we have fingers crossed that we will be
9 able to have something like that, as well, as to expand
10 the project a little bit.

11 The Tarrant County member will be starting in
12 April, so this month. The Travis County member will be
13 starting in July. And then the other update that I have,
14 I think, goes into the next agenda item.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So yes. We were able to go to
16 Houston last week. It seems longer ago than that. For a
17 Funders Together, that is what -- a Funders Together
18 event. And Meagan was able to visit with the Workforce
19 Board, Gulf Coast Workforce Board lead there, about
20 possibly working in the surrounding counties, outside of
21 Montgomery, Fort Bend and Harris.

22 MS. MOORE: Yes.

23 MR. SAMUELS: So hopefully we can place them
24 under [inaudible] in one of those counties. Brazoria or
25 Galveston, something like that, would probably work out

1 well.

2 MR. DOYLE: And what is the -- out of
3 curiosity, since I am from Tarrant County, what is the
4 Tarrant County VISTA's name?

5 MS. MOORE: She was leaving her position. And
6 so she didn't want me to announce it --

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

8 MS. MOORE: -- ahead of time. So I am not
9 sure. And she has made the announcement to her
10 organization.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

12 MS. MOORE: I can tell you later.

13 MR. SAMUELS: An organization that is actually
14 in the continuum of care.

15 MR. DOYLE: In Tarrant County?

16 MR. SAMUELS: In Tarrant County.

17 MR. DOYLE: Good.

18 MS. MOORE: She is cool.

19 MS. BINGLER: What was the third county? I
20 thought I heard Houston, Tarrant and --

21 MS. MOORE: So we have candidates slated to go
22 into Tarrant County and Travis County. And we haven't
23 really formally worked on Houston, but we have made the
24 connections and shared interest.

25 MS. BINGLER: Okay. Thanks. I just didn't

1 hear -- awesome.

2 MR. DOYLE: Everybody familiar with VISTA?
3 Everybody knows what is going to be happening with that
4 worker, that volunteer?

5 MS. MOORE: Yes. Are you all familiar with
6 the VISTA program? Okay.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any questions for Meagan?
8 (No response.)

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I guess, Eric, are you --

10 MS. MOORE: I am doing that one.

11 MR. SAMUELS: I don't really have much to do,
12 today. So I thought about just not doing anything.

13 MR. DOYLE: Should have stayed in Fort Worth
14 on vacation.

15 MR. SAMUELS: I should have. Yes.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Meagan, go ahead. The use
17 of the \$10,000.

18 MS. MOORE: So following the VISTA projects
19 which will end exactly twelve months after their start
20 dates, we are looking to create -- utilizing the money
21 from the Texas Workforce Commission, we are looking into
22 utilizing those funds, and the previous work of the VISTA
23 members to create a toolkit that will then just be able
24 to be disseminated throughout the state, to help improve
25 services for people experiencing homelessness within

1 Texas Workforce Commission. Yes, throughout the rest of
2 the state.

3 Also, creating an employer development program
4 to create connections within COCs to employers, so that
5 those employers might have a better understanding of the
6 similarities between the general population of people
7 experiencing homelessness, and the differences. And
8 maybe determining some accommodations for them as well.

9 And then lastly, we would also develop a
10 client development plan that could be disseminated
11 directly to clients experiencing homelessness on helping
12 them improve their career search and job search and
13 employability. So that would be the toolkit that we
14 would create, and be able to disseminate with a grant
15 from Texas Workforce Commission.

16 MR. SAMUELS: And this would be with proposed
17 funds. And it would be -- and you can correct me, if I
18 am wrong. It wouldn't be exactly like Income Now, in
19 Houston.

20 I don't know how many have heard of that, but
21 that is a really good program. But it may be something
22 that would be similar to that, but perhaps tailored more
23 for the communities that this would be implemented in.

24 MS. MOORE: Yes. Absolutely. And then we are
25 going to take the real life experiences of the VISTAs.

1 Yes, of implementing some of these programs within their
2 communities, compare and contrast on the differences
3 between the two to three locations that we'll have. And
4 kind of have a better understanding of how to apply that
5 more widely.

6 So I have outlined the project goals for the
7 continuation grant and the handout that says THM-TICH
8 update, April.

9 MR. DOYLE: So question on the toolkit. It is
10 both for the employers who might hire a homeless person,
11 and for the homeless person who might go to the job
12 interview. Is it for both?

13 MS. MOORE: Yes, so there is three sections of
14 it. For the service provider, helping those people find
15 jobs and connect them to jobs, for the employers who
16 might be hiring people experiencing homelessness, and for
17 the person experiencing homelessness themselves.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And they are going to work
19 with the local boards on that?

20 MS. MOORE: Yes.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Hopefully, it would be a way to
23 use this money and stretch it. You know, go to more
24 workforce development boards with the resources that we
25 have, and hopefully implement this in other places.

1 MR. DOYLE: Good. Good. And how much are you
2 all charging for VISTAs?

3 MR. SAMUELS: How much are we charging for
4 VISTAs? We need to bill like you all, I think. \$5,000
5 per host site.

6 MR. DOYLE: We are \$500 a month, so that's --

7 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. That is not too far off.

8 MR. DOYLE: -- \$6,000. And there's no fees
9 going in, or any of that kind of thing. It's just a flat
10 \$500 a month to the employer, I mean to the -- it is
11 about the same. I mean, we need to bill out -- one is to
12 One Star Foundation.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

14 MS. MOORE: Yes.

15 MR. DOYLE: I guess you all heard that Liz is
16 going to be the deputy director at HSC in Washington.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

18 MR. DOYLE: Liz Seale, yeah.

19 MS. TRACZ: Do we need to vote on this item,
20 to use the phrase?

21 MR. DOYLE: I guess we should, since it is a
22 voting item. The proposed use of the funds is to build
23 this toolkit, so that we can engage employers and service
24 providers that are trying to get homeless people to work.

25 MS. MOORE: Yes.

1 MR. DOYLE: So we need a motion to approve
2 that use of funds from TWC as our TICH project. So if
3 you are a member, I need a motion.

4 MS. BOLTON: So moved.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. There is a motion. Is
6 there a second?

7 MS. HISSAM: Second.

8 MR. DOYLE: A second. Any further discussion?
9 Comments?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. DOYLE: All in favor of using that
12 \$10,000 --

13 MS. CANTU: There is a little discussion.

14 MS. BINGLER: Yes.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

16 MS. CANTU: I just wanted to mention that this
17 proposal is being briefed up through the Texas Workforce
18 Commission, so we don't have final approval yet. But we
19 are working in that direction.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

21 MS. CANTU: So this would be a proposal for a
22 proposal, right.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Given a positive from
24 TWC --

25 MS. CANTU: Yes.

1 MR. DOYLE: That is our proposed use of the
2 funds. So with that motion and that second, any further
3 discussion?

4 MS. CANTU: So just so you have the full
5 picture, once we vote on it today, we can start the
6 contracting process. TDHCA can start the contracting
7 process with TDCJ.

8 And that way, we can amend the existing
9 contract to roll it in both for TDHCA, to receive the
10 \$10,000 and then with THN, if this is approved to receive
11 the \$10,000. So that is why this is being done today,
12 pending further approvals, so we can get the contracting
13 process started.

14 MS. BINGLER: We're very hopeful. I think it
15 looks good.

16 MR. DOYLE: Yes. I do too. Okay. All in
17 favor, say aye.

18 (A chorus of ayes.)

19 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DOYLE: Any abstentions?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That does pass. Okay, the
24 Disaster Housing Strategy. Eric, I understand you are
25 doing that one? Or you aren't doing anything?

1 MR. SAMUELS: I will start it. I actually, I
2 will start this out. But then I am going to hand it off
3 to Keegan.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

5 MR. SAMUELS: And so first of all, let me
6 introduce Keegan, Keegan Shephard. I know you did the
7 name and said he was a VISTA. But Keegan is going to be
8 working at Texas Homeless Network on our statewide
9 initiatives focus area.

10 So as you know, the Texas Homeless Network is
11 the lead for the Texas Balance of State, but we also work
12 throughout the state. And he is going to work with me on
13 those activities. He is going to focus on things like
14 data warehouse, under which, actually, we met with -- I
15 don't know if I should release this yet. But Amazon web
16 services last Friday, they are interested in working with
17 us in some capacity. So we are kind of excited about
18 that.

19 He is also going to work on -- we need to, we
20 are hoping to do more. And in terms of statewide
21 homeless response, and being the lead for that. For
22 example, we are bringing all the continuums together this
23 summer to share information on how to operate and
24 coordinate assessment and coordinate entry process.

25 And then, also, he is going to be working with

1 the Interagency Council. And my hope is that we can work
2 on that framework to end homelessness, perhaps update
3 that, since it has been a while.

4 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

5 MR. SAMUELS: A VISTA is what got it to happen
6 last time, so maybe we can strike twice on that. So what
7 he is going to talk about is a Disaster Housing Strategy.

8 And this is something that -- so after Harvey
9 hit, it was pretty chaotic for the Homeless Crisis
10 Response systems. Pretty chaotic for a lot of systems.
11 Jeanne, I know the school districts trying to react was
12 pretty chaotic.

13 And a lot of it was because of a lack of
14 communication, and a lack of sharing data. And we looked
15 around the country to see, who is doing this right? And
16 Louisiana is a state that has done this, and they have
17 created the Louisiana Disaster Housing Strategy.

18 So we talked to them, and we have been talking
19 to our continuum of care leads about this idea. And so
20 this is something that Keegan has been tasked with is to
21 try to kind of outline the skeleton of this plan, and
22 hopefully get others involved. And it would take a lot
23 of other agencies involved.

24 We would probably not end up being the lead
25 for this. This would probably be led by a larger group,

1 a state agency, like it is in Louisiana. And it actually
2 may just piggyback on some of the work that has been
3 done. Because we know a lot of work has been done by the
4 Texas Department of Emergency Management.

5 Other groups, Texas Appleseed, actually, has
6 responded some, with the hurricane recovery efforts and
7 the advocacy efforts around that, and other state
8 agencies. So this is not meant to be something that
9 would replace anything.

10 It is just a way to bring in more structure
11 for agencies like the ones we work with and, hopefully,
12 get them engaged with some of our federal and state
13 agencies. Better, and prepared better for the next
14 disaster.

15 So we can actually -- for example, we couldn't
16 even get into the Port Arthur tent cities. They wouldn't
17 even let us in, until we had found somebody who knew
18 somebody who would let us in, and then we could certainly
19 do assessments. But that was like, three weeks after the
20 fact.

21 So who knows where some of those people who
22 had been involved in services ended up. And where they
23 ended up, my worry is that they were not continuing to
24 get those services, or potentially, medication or
25 treatment. And hopefully, a plan like this would prevent

1 those types of things from happening.

2 MR. DOYLE: Is this something that we could
3 attach to the Interagency Council in case somebody were
4 to say, is there an emergency housing plan. Does TDHCA
5 have an emergency housing plan for disasters? Or is this
6 something we could reference?

7 I am just thinking, if somebody asked, do we
8 have one? And somebody says, well, we had this thing
9 called the Texas Interagency Council on Homelessness.

10 And they ask one of us, do we have an
11 emergency housing plan? Could we say, yes, but we work
12 with THN to make that -- how could we tie that to the
13 Council?

14 MR. SAMUELS: So I wasn't expecting that to
15 happen, that this would be a TICH document. But there
16 are a lot of agencies that are involved with the
17 Interagency Council that would be involved with this. So
18 that is why we thought this would be a good idea to bring
19 it up.

20 MR. DOYLE: Is it going to be a THN plan?

21 MR. SAMUELS: I don't think, ultimately, if it
22 is to be something like Louisiana has put together, it
23 would not be a THN plan. It would be a plan of many
24 state agencies.

25 For example, their housing group leads this

1 plan. Here, it would probably be the General Land
2 Office. So I don't know. It could -- there is a lot of
3 ways to go with this.

4 But just, some type of structure. And even if
5 it is just focused on those groups that are at risk, or
6 experiencing homelessness, even if we just structured it
7 around that, I think it would be helpful. It sure would
8 be a lot more helpful if it had every group involved.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

10 MR. SAMUELS: So sorry, I probably said too
11 much. But I know Keegan has something to say about it,
12 too.

13 MR. SHEPHARD: I will keep it brief. Again,
14 it is not to supplant efforts that are already are
15 underway or to step on anyone's toes. It is really just
16 a matter of getting coordination and having that in place
17 beforehand.

18 Because as we all know, step one is always
19 preparedness. You can't be preparing for this three days
20 out from the hurricane. These things have to be in place
21 beforehand. Otherwise, it is too late.

22 And so that is really the point behind this,
23 is to get everyone together and sort of signing off on
24 steps, on who is doing what and who is responsible for
25 things. Just that we know, in case of whatever natural

1 disaster, manmade, or whatever, there is already a plan
2 in place.

3 So that recovery and that rebuilding is much
4 more efficient, whether it is people who are experiencing
5 homelessness because of a disaster, people who are
6 already experiencing homelessness, and then they face a
7 disaster. Or, people who are precariously housed, or
8 sort of hopping from place to place, because of a
9 disaster.

10 MR. SAMUELS: And he has a summary here for
11 you.

12 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Okay. And I have not had a
13 chance to read the summary --

14 MS. CANTU: Mike, can they take another
15 question.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

17 MS. CANTU: Would this be primarily for the
18 days immediately following the disaster, or ongoing
19 recovery?

20 MR. SHEPHARD: The way we envisioned it, it
21 would go from preparedness to immediate aftermath. And
22 then especially, when you are thinking about rehousing,
23 going all the way to medium and long term.

24 MS. CANTU: Okay. So I know very -- I know
25 just enough about emergency management to get me into

1 trouble, but there is a Texas Department of Emergency
2 Management.

3 MR. SHEPHARD: Right.

4 MS. CANTU: So did you guys approach them with
5 this issue?

6 MR. SAMUELS: Not yet.

7 MR. SHEPHARD: Okay.

8 MR. SAMUELS: I will say, when we were going
9 to that tent city, we tried to work with them. That
10 was -- that communication was a little difficult to have.
11 Yes, so that would be a group we would need to work with,
12 obviously.

13 MR. SHEPHARD: And also, it may be one of
14 those things that the more agencies and groups that we
15 have on board from the get go, the easier it will be to
16 approach that organization as we begin to coordinate more
17 and more.

MR. DOYLE: So I think the --

18 MR. SAMUELS: So what is the purpose of this?

19 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Exactly.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So we are not asking for a vote
21 or anything.

22 MR. DOYLE: No. I understand.

23 MR. SAMUELS: But it is to bring it up, so
24 that folks that are in the room and hopefully, folks that
25 are listening, or folks that read the notes when they

1 come out, who are with the agencies, will know why Keegan
2 may be contacting them.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MR. SAMUELS: That is really --

5 MR. DOYLE: Which is like, what your agency
6 might be doing in the case of another hurricane?

7 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. Basically.

8 MR. SHEPHARD: Yes.

9 MR. DOYLE: But it is not to superimpose that
10 over the top of an existing plan. Just for the homeless
11 issue, what is going on. I mean, that is --

12 MR. SAMUELS: Well, the plan that we have been
13 using as our example isn't just related to homelessness.
14 But if that is what needs to happen for this, then we can
15 do that.

16 That plan came after Katrina and so it was
17 really just across the board for any housing needs,
18 Disaster Housing Strategy. So whether someone is
19 experiencing homelessness prior to the hurricane, because
20 of the hurricane, or even just temporarily, because of
21 the hurricane. They fell under this.

22 MR. DOYLE: But you perceive the need, so you
23 are working on a solution. And you perceive the need,
24 because it was difficult to get into the tent city in
25 Port Arthur?

1 MR. SAMUELS: Right. And that was the case
2 with a lot of agencies. And I will say, a city like
3 Houston did a really good job. But only because they
4 already had a really good crisis response system set up.

5 So they were able to help their folks really
6 well, and that was pretty streamlined. But the folks
7 that came in that weren't already in the system, that was
8 a difficult thing for them to manage, and for the other
9 volunteers and the shelters to manage.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions?

11 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. I have a question. So I
12 know when the hurricane occurred, at HHSC, we had a
13 pretty quick response to make sure that people were still
14 connected to their health plan.

15 We had a lot of conversation with CMS, to make
16 sure that people who were relocated to another state
17 could continue to have their benefits. I wasn't involved
18 in all of that. I just was reading what was going on.

19 And I think that one of the disconnects was
20 that the Human Services, and the housing people were all
21 invited to those disaster meetings. But I also know that
22 we were so busy trying to keep people on their plan.

23 We worked with managed care, MCOs, managed
24 care organizations out there doing the work actually. It
25 would be challenging to have another entity to report to,

1 I think, during that time.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. And don't know. I mean, I
3 don't know that -- well, I don't envision us being the
4 agency to report to. But I think, if there is a way we
5 could work to develop those communication links that are
6 needed beforehand, that would really help.

7 I mean, when we went into these tent cities,
8 they didn't even know what continuum of care was. You
9 know, once they found out what we were doing, they were
10 like, oh yes. Come in.

11 You know, we have people that need to talk to
12 you, because we don't know what to do with them. And you
13 know, we don't know how to deal with them. And so just
14 opening up those communications --

15 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. And it would be good to
16 have Health and Human Services involved in that, too.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

18 MS. POHLMAN: Because you know, we see many of
19 the people that are on Medicaid are also experiencing
20 homelessness, or have experienced homelessness.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. There was a whole group of
22 folks in Port Arthur that were from a group home. And so
23 I imagine they were all, you know, on some type of
24 assistance.

25 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. Hopefully, we were there.

1 MR. SAMUELS: What?

2 MS. POHLMAN: Hopefully, we had some people on
3 the ground, there.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I mean, I think people
5 were trying to help as much as they could.

6 MS. POHLMAN: Yes.

7 MR. SAMUELS: But they were so used to having
8 someone at that home who managed their appointments,
9 their room --

10 MS. POHLMAN: Yes.

11 MR. SAMUELS: As I talked to more and more of
12 them, they were missing appointments, not getting their
13 medication.

14 MS. POHLMAN: Wow.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So, you know, just a little bit
16 of structure ahead of time would help.

17 MS. POHLMAN: Yes.

18 MR. SAMUELS: And it is involving a lot of
19 groups, so that is why it is so difficult.

20 MS. POHLMAN: It is big.

21 MR. SAMUELS: And you know, you want to work
22 on preparedness, but the fire is not under people to do
23 that once the hurricane is over.

24 MS. POHLMAN: Right. It moves to recovery.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions about
2 that plan?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: I think it is something for us as
5 members, we don't need to say we had one. We just say,
6 we are looking at what several groups are doing, when it
7 comes to disaster recovery like that because we don't
8 have an official plan, as an Interagency Council.

9 MR. SAMUELS: And I should say that, so the
10 joint housing solutions workgroup, I joined those calls.
11 And so Michael actually is the chair for that, Michael
12 Wagner.

13 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

14 MR. SAMUELS: So I brought this up to him.
15 And there was another group. There is a lot of groups
16 that meet about this.

17 I forgot who the other group is, but I brought
18 that up to them, too. So this isn't the only group that
19 has heard about this.

20 MR. DOYLE: Right. It is an interesting
21 thing. I think that Houston did do a great job of what
22 they did. And so did TWC, getting out the temporary
23 unemployment monies to the communities. The folks in
24 Fort Worth didn't even know anything about.

25 But it was distributed through the boards.

1 And so it is their need to have there, too. All right.
2 Update from the TICH committees. Cate, you are going to
3 do performance data.

4 MS. TRACZ: Sure. So at the last meeting,
5 Brooke handed over the work of the Performance Data
6 Committee, to me. So since the last meeting, I have
7 taken all of her notes, all of the interview questions
8 that she has done with several agencies.

9 So I have gone through all of that. I am
10 trying to organize that. And then my next meeting is
11 going to be with Cal at TEA. We are going to have a
12 little kick off meeting actually, right after this
13 meeting, and then kind of just broadly discuss what
14 performance measures they have, what reporting they have
15 that could inform homelessness data from each agency.
16 Specifically, from them.

17 So I am just going to keep going with, you
18 know, contacting each agency, identifying what
19 performance measures you currently have, where we could
20 get a uniform data set to really paint a picture of
21 homelessness, from what we already capture. And then my
22 plan would be to take whatever product we have, through
23 the work this year, to put that into next years report.
24 So we can actually have some concrete reporting, more on
25 a statewide level for some homelessness data.

1 So that is where it is so far. We are just,
2 you know, continuing along. Like I said, I am going to
3 talk with TEA next. You know, so be thinking, if we
4 haven't contacted you, what data, what performance
5 measures your agency already collects that might be able
6 to inform homelessness data for this project. So just a
7 quick update. Any questions?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. TRACZ: Okay. That is it. Yes, just
10 continuing on.

11 MR. DOYLE: Do you all remember the purpose of
12 this committee?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DOYLE: Tell them what your -- kind of
15 what are you charged with.

16 MS. TRACZ: So we want to have -- let's see.
17 So in the bylaws, it says that we need to have reporting,
18 each year, on homelessness. You know, to get a better
19 picture of it. So this is to really look at what is
20 existing already, evaluating member performance data,
21 what other data could be compiled, and providing a
22 uniform report with combined data.

23 So this really is to satisfy some of the
24 legislative requirements, and then some of the things
25 that we had put in the bylaws, each year, so that we

1 could really have those concrete numbers going forward,
2 to say, yes, we have this PEIMS data. We have the TDHCA
3 Emergency Solutions data, but here is, you know,
4 everything in a larger picture. So we can have one kind
5 of go-to data set each year, that we can keep updating.

6 MR. DOYLE: And if I remember correctly, in
7 addition to other things, you are doing a question and
8 answer with each agency about how they are identifying
9 homeless people in their system. They ask them the
10 question, where are they asking them, that kind of thing,
11 so we can get a better representation across the agency
12 for who is serving the population.

13 MS. TRACZ: Absolutely. Yes.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MS. TRACZ: And the ultimate goal is to pick
16 from what you already have existing, so there is not
17 additional work each year put on the agencies. So we are
18 in the interviews, and looking for overlap between
19 agencies, and how you collect data on this population.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good. Thank you.

21 Eric, the Annual Report Committee. And would
22 you merge that into the review of the annual report?

23 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, so -- okay.

24 MR. DOYLE: It is still in the draft stages.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. So actually, I think Cate

1 will actually be helping with this. So we have put
2 together a draft. And I probably included way too much
3 in my original draft.

4 And so we got it to a point where we could
5 submit it to TDHCA. And so Cate and Michael -- I think
6 primarily Cate has been looking through it, to give it
7 that TDHCA filter.

8 MS. TRACZ: Right.

9 MR. SAMUELS: So that is where it is right
10 now. MS. TRACZ: Right. Right. So yes. We have
11 got the draft from the Committee. And like Eric said, it
12 was filled with lots of detail, lots of information.

13 So I'm summarizing a lot, and really
14 highlighting the successes that the TICH did in the last
15 year. The VISTA projects, some of the committees that we
16 had worked on, the disaster coordination at our meeting
17 in the fall, things like that.

18 So the plan is still to have a draft, passed
19 through TDHCA for approval. And then release that to the
20 members. And then before our next meeting, I would like
21 to have that presented to the members, so we can vote on
22 it, to finalize it.

23 And I was telling Mike before the meeting,
24 that the timeline, there really is no set deadline for
25 this. It is just, within the year you need to provide an

1 annual report.

2 So, you know, I know last -- at our last
3 meeting, you know, as well as -- it is coming. It is
4 coming. It is still coming. We are not up against a
5 hard deadline. So I expect by May, we should have a good
6 draft ready. So that will be coming.

7 MR. DOYLE: Good. Again, that is part of the
8 legislative requirement that we send a report to all the
9 member agencies once a year, on kind of the state of
10 homelessness in Texas. And that is why we are working on
11 it.

12 MS. TRACZ: Right.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. And so I had thought that
14 it was due at the second quarter, or the -- I guess it
15 would be in the second quarter meeting.

16 MS. TRACZ: Today.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Today. Yes. But it is not. So
18 that is good.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yes. So we look at what we're
20 finding, and then in May, we will probably have a report
21 to approve, look at?

22 MS. TRACZ: Right. Right. So that will be
23 sent out by email to the group to review.

24 MR. DOYLE: Or July, I mean.

25 MS. TRACZ: Right. So we will send it out

1 ahead of time. Feel free to submit comments, track
2 changes, or you know, call and have an conversation.

3 Submit your comments in email. And then in
4 July, we will have a final to approve.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you very much. Item
6 10, I have talked to Christine about this. And we are
7 going to table this vote until July.

8 And TNOYS and Cate and Elizabeth and whoever
9 else is involved is going to be doing some discussions
10 around the homelessness youth issue that we had a great
11 report on, last time. So we are going to table that.

12 MS. GENDRON: Sorry, I just realized. I won't
13 be at the July meeting, because I will be on leave.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, we will figure
15 something out. So we will go to Item 12, public comment.
16 Anybody have any public comment they would like to make?

17 MR. SCHOLL: Mike, this is Dr. Scholl, down in
18 Somerset.

19 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Dennis.

20 MR. SCHOLL: Just real quick. First of all, I
21 wanted to thank Cate and, in particular, Eric, for
22 getting me linked to the continuum of care folks in San
23 Antonio; Bill Hubbard, and Sarah, and his staff. I asked
24 for some connections to learn about resources because
25 personal interest in building some possible shelter and

1 housing options on my property in South Bexar County for
2 veterans, people with mental challenges that specifically
3 are rural in nature. Had a meeting with Bill and his
4 staff, who was very, very helpful.

5 And with three graduate degrees, and a lot of
6 experience, I am not a subject matter expert in housing.
7 But now, I know where to find them, thanks to their
8 referral.

9 Also, real quickly, this may be my last
10 connection, because I have decided to file and run for
11 mayor in Somerset. And if that election in May puts me
12 in that seat, I think it would be inappropriate for me to
13 continue to serve as a servicing member on the Board.

14 But I will not lose connection with you. If I
15 do win I will send a letter through my -- through Cate,
16 about that. Other than that, I just, I want to keep in
17 touch with anything on performance data that indicates
18 how you can locate veterans who are homeless specifically
19 in rural areas, because of absence of service in rural
20 areas. Of course, they, and probably many persons
21 with mental challenges also gravitate to the large city.
22 So I will continue to pay attention to that because needs
23 assessment for that fits my level of concern for rural
24 Bexar County, and nine counties or so south of us.

25 But very helpful meeting. And thanks all for

1 letting somebody out in the wilderness learn more about
2 how to meet some of these challenges.

3 MR. DOYLE: Well, thank you, Dennis, and
4 please do keep in touch. You have been very helpful on
5 the phone calls, and faithful on the phone calls. And
6 good luck in your new venture.

7 MR. SCHOLL: Thanks, Mike. Thanks, all.

8 MR. DOYLE: Any other comments?

9 MS. LOPEZ: I did want to just provide some
10 updates on the educational end.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

12 MS. LOPEZ: I know at the last meeting, I had
13 shared that TEA would be administering our competitive
14 grant.

15 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

16 MS. LOPEZ: And today is actually the due date
17 for the grants to be submitted to the TEA document
18 control center by five o'clock today. So I am sharing
19 with Jeanne, I was getting phone calls to confirm that
20 today.

21 MR. DOYLE: You have got plenty of time.

22 MS. LOPEZ: So we are very excited about that.
23 By the next meeting, I will have more information. By
24 the next meeting, we will know exactly how many
25 applications we received and how many subgrants we

1 awarded. And it would also be school districts and also
2 our regional educational centers, so we are very excited
3 about that as well.

4 I also wanted to share that the Texas
5 Education Agency had an institute that was specifically
6 for our regional education center staff here in Austin,
7 last week. And the Agency provided several presentations
8 on various programs and reporting to help assist the
9 regional educational centers, support them. And
10 specifically, McKinney regional foster care, some of the
11 other special programs.

12 We were -- we will be working with our
13 regional educational centers to increase capacity through
14 them, to help support the unique needs of their districts
15 in their area. So we are very excited about that.

16 Of course, a partnership with the Texas
17 Homeless Education Office in Region 10. We'll be
18 reviewing that input to see how we can provide extra
19 support and help increase capacity there, and implement
20 training and technical assistance.

21 Along with that, TEA will be working also with
22 Region 10 and THEO on a HUD certification training for
23 our homeless liaisons. We are very excited. Ken will be
24 working with that, closely, on that training. And so we
25 are working.

1 We have a draft that we will be reviewing to
2 see how, as part of the new ESSA mandates, homeless
3 liaisons will be able to help certify families for HUD
4 services along the lines of McKinney-Vento. I did put
5 that correctly. Correct? Okay.

6 MR. DOYLE: Say a little bit more about that,
7 about that issue. How you can certify them for HUD
8 services.

9 MS. LOPEZ: So I will let Ken talk about that
10 a little more.

11 MR. MARTIN: So part of the Every Student
12 Succeeds Act was to say that the state educational agency
13 can provide training to homeless liaisons. And I will
14 try to quote exactly from the law, that they can make
15 determinations about HUD.

16 They would be certified to make determinations
17 about eligibility for HUD programs without any further
18 action by HUD agencies. That is not a direct quote, but
19 it is pretty close.

20 MR. DOYLE: Tell me --

21 MS. LOPEZ: They can assist without
22 identification --

23 MR. MARTIN: Right.

24 MS. LOPEZ: -- and certification.

25 MR. MARTIN: So it is not placing them in

1 programs.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MR. MARTIN: But it is identifying that this
4 family meets the education definition, and also meets the
5 HUD definition of homeless. So they can expedite that
6 family's entry into the system.

7 MR. DOYLE: Would they then be eligible --
8 would the local school district or homeless liaison be
9 eligible to place them in the central intake process?

10 MR. MARTIN: In the coordinated entry? Yes.

11 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

12 MR. MARTIN: They would assist in that.

13 MR. SAMUELS: So correct me if I am wrong. It
14 is a way to identify those that were falling through the
15 cracks, right?

16 MR. MARTIN: Basically.

17 MR. SAMUELS: That were not being identified.

18 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

19 MS. LOPEZ: It is to help to facilitate --

20 MR. DOYLE: Track between definitions.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

22 MR. MARTIN: Right. And basically, this is
23 just giving homeless liaisons a really good training on,
24 well, I have it, if I do say so myself. But no, giving
25 them a really good foundation in what the HUD definition

1 of homelessness is, and what programs they might be
2 eligible for, depending on the local agencies and local
3 continuum of care.

4 MR. DOYLE: Will the coordinated intake --
5 people responsible for coordinated intake be at that
6 training, so that one says, the homeless liaison may say,
7 you are eligible for this. And then they get there, and
8 the coordinated intake person says, no. You are not
9 eligible.

10 Is there going to be some kind of bridge
11 there, to say well, if he sent, or she sent them, they
12 must be eligible. Or how are they going to --

13 MR. MARTIN: Part of the training is that they
14 will let them know that they are eligible, but may not
15 fit a program. Because programs can have specific target
16 audiences, or target --

17 MR. DOYLE: Populations?

18 MS. LOPEZ: Criteria.

19 MR. MARTIN: Criteria. Like, they might only
20 serve veterans, or might only serve women, children,
21 whatever. So that is part of the whole thing that they
22 will be learning.

23 MR. DOYLE: Good.

24 MS. LOPEZ: So the intention will be kind of
25 to provide a crosswalk of, this is how they qualified

1 under McKinney-Vento, and would qualify for HUD. And so
2 kind of to -- to kind of put that hand-in-hand, and also,
3 because part of it as a legislation is that we, the state
4 agency, need to work with our districts to help provide
5 homeless liaisons the capability to provide items on
6 additional resources.

7 So they are receiving the educational
8 resources. But the districts will also need to assist in
9 connecting them with those community resources, as well.

10 MR. DOYLE: Does the education agency and the
11 homeless liaisons have access to housing vouchers?

12 MS. LOPEZ: No. They do not. But they are
13 supposed to help facilitate that collaboration and
14 coordination --

15 MR. DOYLE: Try to find them.

16 MS. LOPEZ: -- at the local level. So I will
17 speak just to my own experience. When the housing
18 authority in our area would open up, they would send the
19 information to me to go ahead and distribute it out to
20 our families, to let them know, they are opening up.

21 This is the application dates. This is what
22 you need. And so a lot of times, having the HUD
23 certification would also help to ensure, you know, you
24 may qualify under X, Y and Z, and kind of at least, walk
25 them through that process. And see if they are eligible

1 for the services that are available in that local area.

2 MR. MARTIN: I feel, a large part of it is not
3 raising expectations of families that are served in the
4 education system, that they are going to receive housing
5 if they go through coordinated entry. That the training
6 is going to be, you know, directed at helping them
7 realize that you can be -- go through the coordinated
8 entry, and still may not be eligible for housing
9 assistance, because of this and this.

10 You know, like, you don't meet the HUD
11 definition of homelessness. Or well, yes, you do meet
12 the education definition, but you don't meet the HUD
13 definition, and here is why. And they will just be able
14 to explain that a little bit better to families, so they
15 don't have raised expectations that definitely they are
16 going to get help.

17 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Okay. That makes sense.

18 MS. CANTU: And Ken, is this the same training
19 that Eric and I looked at earlier?

20 MR. MARTIN: Yes. It is very changed since
21 then.

22 MS. CANTU: Okay.

23 MR. MARTIN: I did get it vetted by HUD, by
24 Brett Esters at HUD, and the U.S. Department of Education
25 has looked at it. But we are deferring to TEA, who will

1 be working with them to create a final document that will
2 be used.

3 MS. CANTU: And to highlight some more cross-
4 agency training, Ken and I are going to be hosting that,
5 or I am hosting Ken on a webinar tomorrow for the
6 Emerging Solutions Grant subrecipients, to learn more
7 about homeless liaisons, and what you do, and how to get
8 connected.

9 MR. DOYLE: Good. Any other questions?

10 MS. LOPEZ: Well, I just wanted to add one
11 last thing.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Yes.

13 MS. LOPEZ: When we were talking about the
14 Disaster Housing Task Force, the Agency as well is
15 working on looking at all the guidance that we provided
16 during Hurricane Harvey and cataloguing it, and creating
17 some sort of disaster housing -- well, disaster response.
18 And so we are going to be working on looking at all the
19 guidance.

20 Because I think it is -- the Agency provided
21 huge numbers of guidance regarding homeless education and
22 other support services. So we will be working on
23 cataloguing all the information, and kind of creating a
24 handbook of the trainings we provided, the guidance, what
25 the adjustments were made for accountability, whom we

1 worked with.

2 For instance, our mental health task force.
3 And also working with the Texas Homeless Education Office
4 and Region 10, to look at the trainings that were also
5 provided during this time. So we will be working on
6 cataloguing that, as well, so we can have this to
7 directly go back.

8 Hopefully, we won't have to, any time in the
9 near future. But to easily look at and visit, at what
10 the Agency did, and the guidance that they provided to
11 our regional educational centers and our school
12 districts.

13 Because we do have many of them asking, well,
14 Cal, when you come back, three or four, or five years
15 from now, whether there is an audit, or another disaster,
16 you know, will you know what you asked us to do? And the
17 answer is yes. We are making sure that we are
18 cataloguing all response and guidance, so we can go back.

19 And also, putting superintendents at ease that
20 this was the guidance provided at that time, to help
21 support identification and services for students. So we
22 will be working on that as well.

23 MR. DOYLE: Great.

24 MR. MARTIN: I think it is pretty amazing how
25 quickly the school districts got back up and running.

1 I've just been really impressed with that in the Houston
2 area, and outside. So I don't know. Kudos to the
3 teachers and everyone in the school districts to do that.

4 MR. DOYLE: The whole thing about the homeless
5 liaisons has been kind of nebulous for me, because the
6 Fort Worth ISD is so big, another ISD is more like, well,
7 who wants to do that this year, and they are tired of
8 doing that. Whereas, in the context of the whole
9 program, is it solid, secure, there is going to be a
10 homeless liaison in the school districts, no matter what?

11 MS. LOPEZ: That is federal statute.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

13 MS. LOPEZ: So that is mandatory. And so that
14 is why we are looking to help increase our capacities at
15 the regional educational centers for training and
16 technical assistance. I think that Harvey highlighted
17 how valuable the support services that the homeless
18 liaisons provide to their students and families.

19 And so we just want to help increase that
20 support with, like I said, whatever additional trainings,
21 resource guides, FAQs that they may need to help, you
22 know, ensure that families receive the services. Because
23 a lot of families in the districts may be up and running,
24 but we are still going to see, you know, the
25 ramifications of what Harvey had on several families.

1 And there could be -- I mean, we have seen a
2 high rise in identification for this year. But that
3 could continue, depending on how families have been able
4 to get back on their feet post-Harvey.

5 And so that is why the Commissioner stressed
6 the identification of families that were displaced or
7 homeless, so he could revisit how accountability would
8 move forward for the school districts, given that many
9 schools had to shut down, or have had to move their
10 students to other buildings, and have been very creative
11 on how they could continue providing education
12 seamlessly, given Hurricane Harvey.

13 MR. DOYLE: At least from Tarrant County's
14 perspective, more the difference in the Katrina floods
15 and the Katrina evacuees that came to Fort Worth, and the
16 Houston evacuees that came to Fort Worth, there was a
17 world of difference. In Louisiana, probably a half of
18 them stayed in Fort Worth, and hardly anybody is not
19 going back to Houston.

20 We had about seven families that are staying.
21 And the other 89 or so that applied for the emergency, or
22 temporary, unemployment were going back.

23 MS. LOPEZ: Right.

24 MR. DOYLE: So that was a strange thing, to
25 see the two flood -- and the repercussions of it, on the

1 local community.

2 MS. LOPEZ: And Louisiana has been a great
3 resource also for the Agency, regarding our mental health
4 task force. They have met with our task force on several
5 occasions, and have had conference calls regarding the
6 systems that they put in place, and kind of the recovery
7 efforts that they had.

8 And so they have been a great resource for us
9 at the Agency, in visiting what kind of mental health
10 issues we may be seeing or supports that are needed as we
11 move forward and looked at their model. So I was glad to
12 hear that they -- you know, we would be looking for them
13 as well, regarding the housing task force.

14 Because they have already been through it.
15 They have already seen the pros and the cons of what they
16 have done. And I think we can really learn a lot from
17 them.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Cal. Christine.

19 MS. GENDRON: I want to field the question
20 regarding whether every school has a homeless liaison and
21 that is secure. So last year, TNOYS did a survey of
22 all -- we reached out to all of the homeless liaisons in
23 Texas.

24 We worked with the others on the survey. And
25 we got a pretty good response rate, considering that so

1 many of the emails bounced back, suggesting that a lot of
2 these schools don't have up-to-date records on who their
3 liaison is, or might not have a liaison.

4 And what we heard overwhelmingly from homeless
5 liaisons is that they don't quite have what they need.
6 Because there is a federal mandate that doesn't really
7 have any money behind it, right. It's an unfunded
8 mandate, and so schools are doing the best they can.

9 It sounds like there is a lot of support from
10 the TEA, which we are excited about. But that there is
11 still an issue. And so we made some recommendations in
12 that report.

13 And then also, this was kind of echoed again
14 in the report that we did with Texas Appleseed, but the
15 bottom line is that in order for schools to effectively
16 meet the requirements they have, they need more
17 resources. And then on top of that, what we heard from
18 homeless liaisons, there were homeless liaisons in Texas
19 who have reported that they didn't identify a single
20 homeless student. Their district didn't report any
21 homeless students. We know that is probably not the
22 case.

23 But what we also heard was that even for those
24 where the school has, you know, there is a real homeless
25 liaison or multiple, and they are trying the best they

1 can, there is just a lack of community resources for
2 which to even connect the homeless student. So
3 obviously, if you are working with the homeless student,
4 you are going to do what you can to meet the federal
5 McKinney-Vento requirements.

6 But you also want to know that that kid has a
7 place to go when school ends. And so you want to go
8 above and beyond, and you have to rely on community
9 resources to do that.

10 And so it is definitely an area where we hope
11 that this group and others can help bring more resources
12 to the table. A few weeks ago, TNOYS was invited to
13 present at the Texas Association of School Boards
14 Conference on youth homelessness.

15 And there were people in the room saying that
16 as a result of Harvey, 90 percent of the students in
17 their district are homeless right now. And they just
18 don't know what to do about it. They are struggling, and
19 they are talking about trauma.

20 We know that once students are homeless, they
21 are more likely to demonstrate challenging behaviors in
22 school. Schools don't have the resources they need,
23 necessarily, to respond, in the best way possible, after
24 every time.

25 So TNOYS and THEO and Texas Homeless Network

1 are partnering to try to secure funding through Rebuild
2 Texas to provide some of the support for schools. And so
3 we will be reaching out to Cal and to some of you in this
4 room.

5 We just started on -- there is not anything
6 happening yet. We are just having conversations. But
7 what we are hoping is that we can provide some training
8 to schools.

9 Because we have had a lot of schools in school
10 districts and school board members reach out, asking for
11 training. What do you do with a homeless student? How
12 do you respond to trauma? All of that stuff.

13 So the idea of starting collaboration we would
14 be able to provide some of that. And then also, really
15 making those connections between service providers and
16 schools, because we hear from our in-service providers,
17 they have a hard time getting into schools. But the
18 reality is, they can provide support that schools need.
19 And there just seems to be a disconnect.

20 So looking at bringing all the different
21 provider types to the table, to look at, well, how can
22 you guys really help schools meet this incredible need.
23 So we are excited about it.

24 MR. DOYLE: Good. Anybody else?

25 MS. GENDRON: Speaking of resources, we did

1 get a federal budget passed. And I was just going to
2 provide a really brief update on the housing programs.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MS. GENDRON: How they fared in that budget.
5 And mostly, the news was good. The HOME program had its
6 first significant increase in a very long time. It is
7 about 30 percent greater than last year.

8 MR. DOYLE: 30 percent.

9 MS. GENDRON: And that is federally.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

11 MS. GENDRON: Now, we won't -- for all of
12 these things that I am about to say, we won't actually
13 know for about 45 more days what the state of Texas'
14 allocation is. And then it will be about a 90 --
15 historically, it has been 90 to 120 days after that,
16 before we actually get access to the money. So this is
17 still a while off.

18 There was a slightly higher CDBG allocation.
19 The ESG allocation was level. There was a higher
20 allocation for the continuum of care programs, about \$130
21 million increase. And the way that budget is written,
22 HUD has a little bit of flexibility in how it allocates
23 some of the housing assistance grants. So that number
24 could fluctuate a little.

25 \$40 million for a new supportive housing

1 program for homeless veterans. \$82.6 million of project
2 rental assistance, new 811 project rental assistance.
3 That is the first time there has been new money since
4 2013.

5 And a 12.5 increase in the allocation
6 authority for tax credits. That is the first time that
7 allocation authority has increased in quite a while.
8 So -- and \$20 million for new family unification program
9 vouchers.

10 And those are vouchers that target families
11 who are unifying people out of the foster care system, or
12 for youth 18 to 24, who are aging out of the foster care
13 system. So overall, it was a pretty -- most programs on
14 the housing side experienced increases.

15 MR. DOYLE: Great news. Great news. Any
16 other comments?

17 MS. SYLVESTER: One last comment.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

19 MS. SYLVESTER: We are looking to --

20 MR. DOYLE: How do you know it is going to be
21 the last comment?

22 MS. SYLVESTER: Well -- from me.

23 MR. DOYLE: From you. Okay.

24 MS. SYLVESTER: The homeless housing and
25 services program is looking to go out with their rules at

1 the end of this month. So keep a lookout for public
2 comment periods, and those rules. That is it.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anyone else?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. There being no further
6 comments, we are adjourned. And our next meeting is July
7 10, 2018. And I assume, here in Austin. Probably this
8 same room.

9 MS. CANTU: Hopefully.

10 MR. DOYLE: So July 10. Thank you for being
11 here.

12 (Whereupon, at 11:13 a.m., the meeting was
13 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: April 3, 2018

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 59, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: April 6, 2018

(Transcriber)

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